

LETTICK, BIRNEY

DRAWER 19A

Artists-L

71. 2009 085 02530




# Artists of Abraham Lincoln portraits

Birney Lettick

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



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**THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE  
INSURANCE COMPANY**

**INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE**

MEMORANDUM

HOME OFFICE  
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

TO Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry  
Lincoln Museum

DATE January 13, 1961


SUBJECT New Oil Portrait of Lincoln by Mr. Lettick

Now that the new oil portrait of Abraham Lincoln by Mr. Birney Lettick has served its purpose in the making of plates and so forth for our February 11 Saturday Evening Post ad, art reproductions, etc., I suggest that it, like other oil portraits purchased for similar reasons in the past, be considered the property of the Lincoln Museum.

Such a situation would provide a central source of control while also offering certain public relations advantages from the ability to say that the portrait is the property of the Lincoln Museum.

Inasmuch as this practice has been followed in the past and inasmuch as many of these oil portraits have been placed in various parts of the building even though technically the property of the Museum, it is also recommended that this particular portrait be permitted to hang in the office of Mr. Persons, who has asked for it and who currently has it.

JPW:lw

  
John P. White

*Later on Jan 13, 1961 - It is en route to  
the VA Mtg, fully insured*



*Etch*

Dear Mr. Macia,

I have always felt that the photograph of Lincoln by Alexander Gardner, which I have used to paint from, catches best the great humanity in the man. It also reveals his gentleness, his sadness, and his understanding. I have removed, however, a certain sternness that the Gardner and some other photos show, and have substituted an expression of compassion.

Over the years I've made a collection of these photos for study, since the challenge of capturing Lincoln's greatness is one that has interested me tremendously. If you feel that I have succeeded in what I have tried to capture, and intend to use this painting, may I suggest the following layout:



*small light  
type-acc*

Yours truly,

*Dwight Etch*





W. A. L. L. L.  
100 EAST 51ST STREET  
NEW YORK 22, NEW YORK  
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

BIRNEY LETTICK

Birney Lettick was born in New Haven, Connecticut on March 22, 1919.

He attended Yale University of Fine Arts on Scholarship, completing the six year course in four and one half years. While in college, he was awarded the Tiffany Scholarship, given to the 10 most promising art students in the country.

Mr. Lettick served for three and one half years in the ETO as a U. S. Engineer, participating in the Omaha Beach landing in France on D-Day plus 1, fighting thru to Pilsen, Czechoslovakia.

His portraits were exhibited at Dorland Hall, London and can be found in the Yale University Permanent Collection. In Europe he was commissioned to paint King Haakon of Norway, Lady Hearð of England and King George of Greece.

Mr. Lettick has been a cover artist for Reader's Digest, Collier's and other national magazines. In 1956 he was the recipient of a Chicago Art Directors' Award. He has done several paintings for the Lederle Laboratories Bulletin. While Collier's was in existence, he did many editorial illustrations and story illustrations, including several for the famous issue entitled "Hiroshima, U. S. A.". He also illustrated Lowell Thomas's "War Adventure in Burma" and Emanuel Velikowsky's "Worlds In Collision". In addition his paintings have appeared in and for many national magazines and organizations, i.e., General Motors, Aluminium, Ltd., Quaker State Oil, Mead-Johnson, Ethyl, Shell Oil, etc. At present Mr. Lettick has been commissioned to do a series on Early Medieval subjects for the National Geographic Society. These paintings are to be published in book form.

Mr. Lettick also teaches art and is the founder and director of the New Haven Art Workshop, (established in 1946), the largest active art group in the area.



# *The Gettysburg Lincoln*

*Full-Color reproduction of  
an original oil portrait  
by Mr. Birney Lettick*



# The Gettysburg Lincoln

*by*

Mr. Birney Lettick

This new, full-color oil portrait of Abraham Lincoln by Mr. Birney Lettick, is presented with pleasure by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company.

Mr. Lettick, creator of covers for national magazines and active as a teacher of art, is known for many fine paintings among which are portraits of King George of Greece and King Haakon of Norway.

In commenting on this portrait of Mr. Lincoln, he says: "I have always felt that the photograph of Lincoln by Alexander Gardner, which I have used to paint from, catches the great humanity in the man. It also reveals his gentleness, his sadness, and his understanding. I have removed, however, a certain sternness that the Gardner and some other photos show, and have substituted an expression of compassion."

THE **Lincoln** **Life** NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY

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